DO 75 A4120

Quit Socceroos v Czechoslovakia

ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ FOTBALOVÁ ASOCIACE

30th January • 6th February

Quit NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

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Chairman's Message

On behalf of the Australian Soccer Federation I extend a warm welcome to the players and officials of the Czechoslovakia National Team. I also take this opportunity, on behalf of all those involved in soccer in Australia, to congratulate Czechoslovakia on their splendid performance in reaching the Quarter-finals in the 1990 World Cup.

Czechoslovakia come to Australia in the midst of their campaign to qualify for the Euro '92 Finals.

The two-match series between the Socceroos and Czechoslovakia represents the start of Australia's campaign to qualify for the 1994 World Cup. We start this journey with a new National Coach and with a new-look side.

This series is the third occasion we have hosted Czechoslovakia in Australia. On their first tour in 1980 Czechoslovakia defeated Australia 4–0 and 5–0 while the final match resulted in a 2–2 draw. On their last visit in 1986 they again defeated Australia twice 1–0 and 3–0 with the third game resulting in a 1–1 draw.

Czechoslovakia is a team with considerable tradition and international reputation. They are one of the leading European national teams. The experience gained against Czechoslovakia will be of benefit to the Socceroos.

It is appropriate I place on record our sincere appreciation of the support given by the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, sponsors of the Quit Socceroos. We are also proud to associate this two-match series with The Drug Offensive, an organisation of the National Campaign Against Drug Abuse.

Finally, I would ask you, our magnificent fans, to get behind the Socceroos in this important series and encourage them to the best possible start in their preparation for what will be a most difficult qualifying route for the 1994 World Cup.

John Constantine O.A.M.

CHAIRMAN, AUSTRALIAN SOCCER FEDERATION

Creditable Czechs

by DAVID COOPER

There is no denying the fact that Czechoslovakia enjoy a good and an impressive reputation in a number of past World Cup campaigns. Their creditable displays, tenacity and team spirit on several occasions has stamped the Czechs as being one of the most attractive and enterprising soccer nations in the world. Suffice to say that Czechoslovakia have qualified for no less than eight World Cup Finals.

When in 1929 FIFA decided to hold the first-ever official world championship the following year in Uruguay, only four European nations made the trip to that country, namely Belgium, France, Rumania and Yugoslavia. Other countries including Czechoslovakia did not accept the Uruguayans' invitation owing to the astronomical costs involved, notwithstanding the fact that the host country was prepared to cover the cost for transport expenses incurred from Antwerp to Montevideo and vice-versa which, in those years, was only made possible by land and sea.

Four years later, in 1934, Czechoslovakia reached the final against the host nation, Italy. The Azzuri's star-studded side with players like Meazza, Orsi, Ferrari, Combi and Schiavo emerged victorious by the odd goal in three after extra time. The Czechs bombarded the Italians' goalpost relentlessly with goalkeeper Combi covering himself in glory. Indeed, it was a titanic struggle with Orsi netting the goal that mattered.

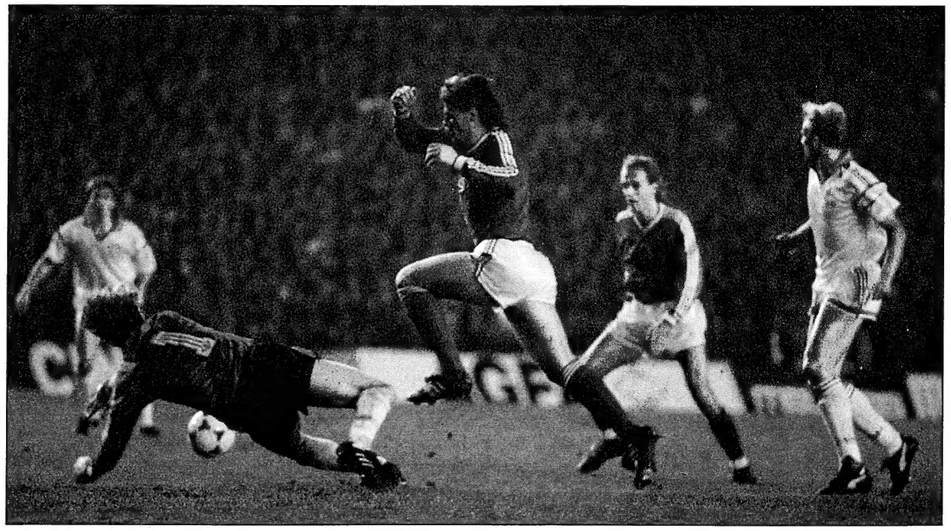
The Czechs reached another World Cup final in 1962, in Chile. Their opponents were none other than the marvels of Brazil. The South Americans' exceptional soccer skills were too much for the Czechs. Brazil won the contest 3-1 and they deservedly engraved their country's name for the second time on the Jules Rimet Cup, even though they played minus Pele due to an injury.

Czechoslovakia also took part in six World Cup Final Series but perhaps with less creditable performances. Those staged in France, Switzerland, Sweden, Mexico, Spain and Italy in 1953, 1954, 1958, 1970, 1982 and 1990.

The current Czechoslovak national side is replete with promising and talented players. They are strongly built, well-knit and a highly trained outfit who play with verve and skill. They possess determination and team combination.

The Czech side is under the expert care and guidance of Mr Milan Macala.

In this series, the Czech side will be facing a new-look Australian Team under the guidance of Eddie Thomson. Each of the Australian Team players will be out to impress the National Coach.



The Czechs will be meeting a bunch of enthusiastic players who will be fighting for every ball in front of their own crowd. It is a certainty that the Socceroos will spare no effort to rise to the occasion with a view to pleasing their thousands of faithful and loyal supporters, and hopefully to reward them with a remarkable performance.

The Australian soccer public are anxious that for two match series both sets of players will regale all the on-lookers present at Olympic Park in Melbourne and Parramatta Stadium in Sydney, with first-class and entertaining matches.

It is also hoped that neither of the teams will resort to negative tactics like vicious tackling, rough and dangerous play which mar the true spirit of the game.

May the sporting spirit prevail throughout the series and may the better team on each day's performance win!

Czechoslovakia – Statistics

Founded: 1901
Number of Clubs: 5,989
Number of Players: 384,963
National Colours: Red shirts, white socks, blue stockings.
Number of Referees: 12,645

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES 1989

12 Apr – Graz: v Austria (a) won 2-1 (Griga 2)
29 Apr – Brussels: v Belgium (a) lost 1-2 (Luhovy)
9 May – Prague: v Luxembourg (h) won 4-0 (Griga, Skuhray 2, Bilek)
7 June – Berne: v Switzerland (a) won 1-0 (Skuhravy)
5 Sept – Nitra: v Rumania (h) won 2-0 (Vik, Bikek)
5 Oct – Prague: v Portuga! (h) won 2-1 (Bilek 2 (1 pen))
25 Oct – Prague: v Switzerland (h) won 3-0 (Skuhravy, Bilek, Moravcik)
15 Nov – Lisbon: v Portugal (a) drew 0-0

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP WINS (1926-90)

Sparta Prague 19; Slavia Prague 12; Dukla Prague (Prev. UDA) 11; Slovan Bratislava 6; Spartak Trnava 5; Banik Ostrava 3; Inter-Bratislava 1; Spartak Hradec Kralove 1; Viktoria Zizkov 1; Zbrojovka Brno 1; Bohemians 1; Vitkovice 1.

CUP WINS (1961-90)

Dukla Prague 8; Sparta Prague 7; Slovan Bratislava 5; Spartak Trnava 4; Banik Ostrava 2; Lokomotiv Kosice 2; TJ Gottwaldov 1; Dunajska Streda 1.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLE 1989-90

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sparta Prague	30	21	4	5	77	27	46
Banik Ostrava	30	16	9	5	50	24	41
Inter	30	15	6	9	55	30	36
Bohemians	30	14	7	9	43	31	35
Slovan	30	10	15	5	29	25	35
Nitra	30	15	4	11	50	37	34
Dukla Prague	30	13	7	10	42	31	33
Olomouc	30	13	6	11	40	42	32
Vitkovice	30	13	4	13	41	52	30
Slavia Prague	30	9	9	12	37	40	27
Cheb	30	11	5	14	28	34	27
Zbrojovka	30	9	8	13	38	50	26
Banska Bystrica	30	9	6	15	35	43	24
Dunajska	30	9	6	15	30	43	24
Trnava	30	4	8	18	24	66	16
Povaszka	30	6	2	22	25	69	14

Cup Final: Dukla Prague 1, Inter Bratislava 1 (Dukla won 5-4 on penalties after extra time)
Top Scorer: Luhovy (Inter) 20

LARGEST STADIUMS

Zbrojovka Brno – 60,000 capacity
Slovan Bratislava – 50,000 capacity
Evzena Rosickeho Praha Strahov – 40,000 capacity
Sparta Proha – 37,000 capacity

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FINALS

1960 v Soviet Union 0-3
v France 2-0

1976 v Netherlands 3-1
v West Germany 2-2
Penalties 5-3

1980 v West Germany 0-1
v Greece 3-1
v Netherlands 1-1
v Italy 1-1
Penalties 9-8

OLYMPIC GAMES

1920 v Yugoslavia 7-0
v Norway 4-0
v France 4-1
v Belgium 0-2

1924 v Turkey 5-2
v Switzerland 1-1, 0-1

1964 v UAR 5-1
v Brazil 1-0
v South Korea 6-1
v Japan 4-0
v East Germany 2-1
v Hungary 1-1

1980 v Columbia 3-0
v Nigeria 1-1
v Kuwait 0-0
v Cuba 3-0
v Yugoslavia 2-0
v East Germany 1-0

WORLD CUP FINALS

1934 v Rumania 2-1
v Switzerland 3-2
v Germany 3-1
v Italy 1-2

1938 v Netherlands 3-0
v Brazi! 1-1, 1-2

1954 v Uruguay 0-2
v Austria 0-5

1958 v N. Ireland 0-1
v West Germany 2-2
v Argentina 6-1
v N. Ireland 1-2

1962 v Spain 1-0
v Brazil 0-0
v Hungary 1-0
v Mexico 1-3
v Yugoslavia 3-1
v Brazil 1-3

1970 v Brazil 1-4
v Rumania 1-2
v England 0-1

1982 v Kuwait 1-1
v England 0-2
v France 1-1

1990 v USA 5-1
v Austria 1-0
v Italy 1-2
v Costa Rica 4-1
v West Germany 0-1

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Czechoslovakia

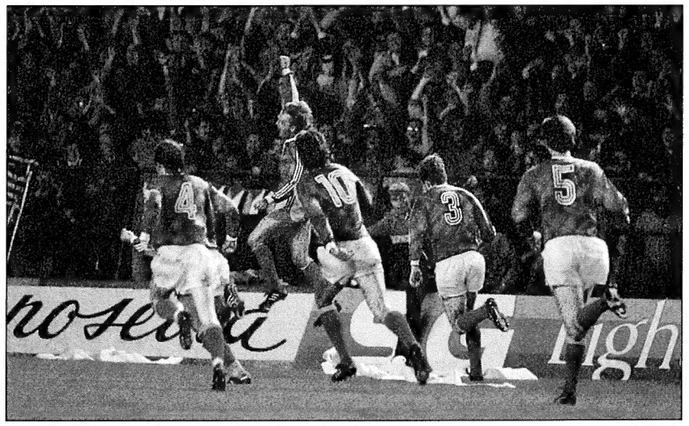
GOALKEEPERS		D.O.B.	Club	A Appearances	Goals	U/21 Appearances
KOUBA	Petr	28.01.69	Sparta Praha			
VENCEL	Alexander	02.03.67	Slovan Bratislava			2
PALUCH	Peter	17.02.58	FC Nitra	5		10
FULLBACKS						
KADLEC	Miloslav	22.06.61	FC Kaiserslautern (Ger.)	29		
JURACKO	Bartolomej	31.08.62	Inter Bratislava			5
SILHAVY	Jaroslav	03.11.61	Slavia Praha	4		2
TITTEL	Dusan	27.12.66	SK Slovan Bratislava	3		
MIDFIELDERS						
KULA	Karel	10.08.63	Banik Ostrava	26	3	
BELAK	Milos	02.01.65	FC Nitra	5		
NEMEC	Jiri	16.01.66	Sparta Praha	5		
GRUSSMANN	Alois	06.09.64	Vitkovice Ostrava	4		
KRISTOFIK	Ondrej	10.09.66	SK Slovan Bratislava	1		5
HOLOTA	Petr	16.05.65	Bohemians Praha			8
HAPAL	Pavel	27.07.69	Sigma MZ Olomouc			10
FORWARDS						
KUKLETA	Roman	22.12.64	Sparta Praha	5	5	
KUKA	Pavel	19.07.68	Slavia Praha	2	1	
PECKO	Ladislav	27.06.68	SK Slovan Bratislava	6		
BITTENGEL	Gunter	14.07.68	Dukla Praha	6		
SEDLACEK	Roman	12.02.63	Sigma MZ Olomouc			7

ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ FOTBALOVÁ ASOCIACE

The Day the Czechs Conquered Europe

by S. VELLA

Czechoslovakia is a land of great football tradition. They have been present in the final stages of eight World Cups and on two of these in 1934 and 1962 have ended up as losing finalists to Italy (1-2) and Brazil (1-3) respectively. From this country emerge the great names of Popluhar, Pluskal, Novak, Planicka, Nejedly, Scherer, Adamec, Kvasnak, Viktor, Nehoda and perhaps the greatest of them all, Josef Masopust, European Footballer of the Year in 1962.

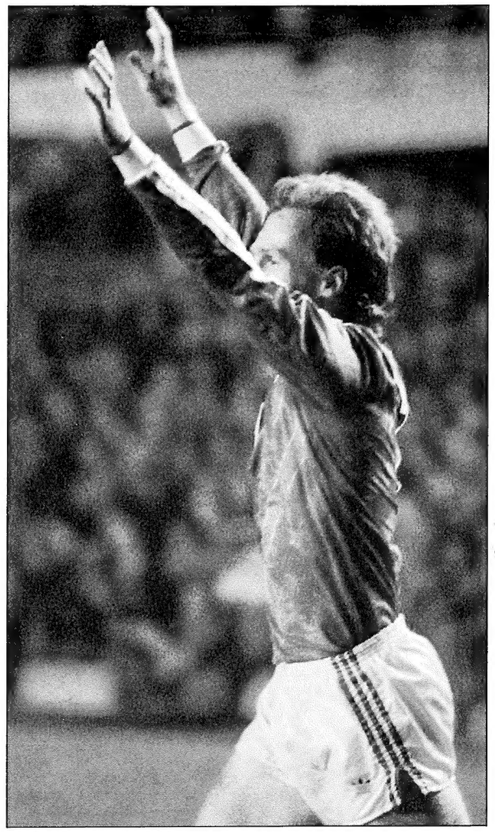


But perhaps the most memorable day for Czech football remains the one their national team was crowned European Champions in 1976, after a dramatic final against the reigning champions, West Germany.

The Czechs arrived in Yugoslavia to fight out the final stages of the competition among the remaining four nations, namely West Germany, Holland, and hosts Yugoslavia, after beating the challenge of England, Portugal and Cyprus in the qualifying group and the Soviet Union in the quarter-finals over two legs. In the semi-final they were to meet Holland, who still included 1974 World Cup stars Suurbier, Rijsbergen, Krol, Neeskens, Rep, Van Hanegem and the "maestro" himself, Johan Cruyff. But Czechoslovakia proved by far the better and more impressive outfit on the night and managed to score twice through Nehoda and Vesely during extra time after Ondrus had put his country in the lead and himself levelled for Holland with an own goal during normal time. Their style of play deserved a final appearance.

On June 20, 1976, Czechoslovakia took on "holders" and the more renowned West Germans of Helmut Schoen (who had also needed extra time to beat Yugoslavia 4-2 in the other semi-final) for the final match in Belgrade Red Star Stadium in front of 35,000 spectators. And what a day it proved to be!

Under the guidance of trainer Jezek, the Czech team fielded no less than six players from the Slovan Bratislava club side, among whom were striker Masny and captain Ondrus. But other names such as those of Nehoda, Dobias, Panenka and the 34 year old experienced keeper Viktor, were no newcomers to European football. On the other hand, West Germany still had World Champions Maier, Vogts, Schwarzenbeck, Bonhof, Hoeness and Holzenbein, together with captain Franz Beckenbauer (making his 100th national appearance on the day) in their line-up, but the most feared man was FC Koln centre-forward Dieter Muller, who was included as a substitute against Yugoslavia and managed to score a hat-trick.



The Czechs soon made their plans evident and after only eight minutes' play, Masny made good of a Vogts defensive error and as his shot could only be partially saved by Maier, the ball came to Nehoda who passed to the unmarked Svehlik for the latter to score and put his side in front. It could be no better start as 17 minutes later a Czech free-kick was headed away by Beckenbauer, the ball came to Dobias who had no hesitation but to beat Maier once more and make the score 2-0 for Czechoslovakia.

Two goals down, the Germans could not stop and look on and it was their turn to react. They did manage to narrow the gap with a 28th minute first class goal from Dieter Muller, whose fierce shot left Viktor helpless. But the interchanging runs of strikers Nehoda and Masny were continuously troubling the German defence, who were lucky not to concede more goals in the first half.

In the second half the West Germans pressed hard for an equaliser and Viktor in goal saved the day for Czechoslovakia with an outstanding performance while the post rebounded Hoeness's shot destined for goal in the 59th minute. The Czechs were denied a similar score six minutes later after a Nehoda header hit the upright and as minutes ticked away, the Germans' efforts could not deceive the opponents' techniques. When Italian referee Gonella took no heed to the Germans' plea for a penalty in the 83rd minute, after Beckenbauer was floored in the area by Dobias, everyone thought that the game was over.

Except the Germans, though, as more was yet to come. They won a corner kick in the 90th minute and from Bonhof's perfect cross, Holzenbein jumped in time to head the equaliser. It was a hard blow for Jezek's team who had to resist the Germans' high morale for another half hour of extra time but as the score was still level after 120 minutes' play, the title was to be decided on penalty kicks, as was agreed by both sides before the match as they wanted to avoid a replay.

The atmosphere was tense. It was a do or die affair and Masny was to take the first kick for Czechoslovakia. He made no mistake and Bonhof equalised for West Germany. Nehoda scored the second and Flohe also converted the second penalty kick for the Germans. Ondrus scored the third kick as did Bongartz, and then Jurkemin made it 4-3 for Czechoslovakia, only for Hoeness to shoot wide Germany's fourth kick. As the Czechs prepared to shoot the fifth penalty, they knew that a goal then would give their side the final victory. Panenka beat Maier for an unassailable 5-3 lead and Czechoslovakia were deservedly crowned European Champions among the jubilation of every football fan who will long remember that memorable night. And what a way to celebrate the Czechoslovakia football Association's 75th Anniversary!

Czechoslovakia's 1976 Winning Team

Viktor
Gogh, Pivarnik, Capkovic, Ondrus
Modr, Panenka, Dobias (Vesely)
Nehoda, Svehlik (Jurkemin), Masny.

A NON-SMOKING HERO.

Paul Trimboli, forward. Player in the first team to represent Australia at the F.I.F.A. Under 16 World Cup. 110 games and 33 goals in the National Soccer League. Senior Socceroo representative no less than nine times. And all without puffing.

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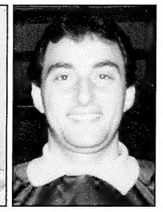
Australian Squad

JOHN FILAN

Born: 8th February, 1970
Club: St. George
Previous Club: Sydney Macedonia
Position: Goalkeeper
NSL Debut: 1990
NSL Appearances: 41

Goalkeeper who will turn 21 two days after the second game against Czechoslavakia. Despite his youth is already being talked about as the best ever goalkeeping prospect Australia has produced. Already a member of the Olympic Socceroos (Under 23), he has been promoted to the senior Socceroos in only his second NSL season. Came through the St. George juniors and represented NSW through to youth level before being loaned out by the Saints to a State League side to gain senior experience. Recalled in 1989–90 and took over from Socceross keeper as the number one choice. Was an ever-present and ended up being voted the best NSL 'keeper of the season.

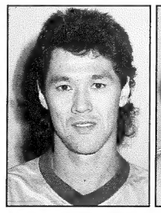
ROBERT ZABICA



Born: 9th April, 1964
Club: Adelaide City
Previous Clubs: Spearwood Dalmatinac, Cockburn, Stirling Macedonia (WA)
Position: Goalkeeper
NSL Debut: 1988
NSL Appearances: 94
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 8
Full International Appearances: 3

Played junior soccer with Spearwood Dalmatinac in Perth but cricket was his first love and he graduated to the WA State squad at 18 before he turned back to soccer with second division club Cockburn for three years then had one season with Stirling Macedonia before transferring to Adelaide City for the princely sum of $500. Took a while to settle in the Adelaide City side but he survived the rough period and remained the undisputed number one choice. Broke into the Socceroos squad last year.

ALAN DAVIDSON



Born: 1st June, 1960
Club: Melbourne Croatia
Previous Clubs: Altona City, South Melbourne, Nottingham Forest (England)
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1979
NSL Appearances: 255
NSL Goals: 15
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 74
Full International Appearances: 49
Goals scored for Socceroos: 3

Played 74 games for Australia as a Socceroo regular between 1980 and '89 either in the midfield or at fullback until he announced his retirement from international football after the 1989 World Cup campaign. Lured out of retirement by new National Coach Eddie Thomson and is likely to become the new Socceroo captain. Came through junior ranks at Altona City breaking into the club's State League side as a 16 year old in 1977. Joined South Melbourne in 1979 for $1,000 giving the club 6 years' service (including the 1984 NSL championship winning side) before transferring to Nottingham Forest for $30,000. Returned to South after one season in England then switched to Melbourne Croatia for $22,000 in 1987. At international level played 10 matches for the Young Socceroos in the 1979 qualifying campaign then moved up to make his debut in the senior Socceroos in 1980 as a substitute against Czechoslovakia.

MEHMET DURAKOVIC

Born: 13th October, 1965
Club: South Melbourne
Previous Clubs: Port Melbourne, Brunswick Juventus, Melbourne JUST
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1985
NSL Appearances: 125
NSL Goals: 3
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 7
Full International Appearances: 3
Goals for Socceroos: 1

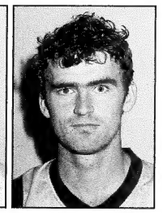
One of South Melbourne's best ever buys – has already repaid the $20,000 fee to Brunswick Juventus a few times over. Came through the juniors at Port Melbourne then joined Juve for a bargain $1,500 in 1985. Played 61 NSL games in four seasons then was released on a loan to Melbourne JUST In 1989 after Juve was relegated from the NSL. Played at fullback, sweeper and midfield at JUST. Was a member of training squad of Melbourne based players, training under then national coach Frank Arok before graduating into the Socceroo side in 1990 – has played four internationals to date.

MILAN IVANOVIC

Born: 21st December, 1960
Club: Adelaide City
Previous Clubs: Red Star Belgrade, OFK Belgrade
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1989
NSL Appearances: 57
NSL Goals: 1

The costliest player bought by an Australian club – Adelaide City paid $50,000 to sign him from Red Star Belgrade in 1989. Broke into Yugoslav first division soccer with OFK Belgrade then transferred to Red Star before their tour of Australia in 1985. Played in all four games against the Socceroos scoring the first goal in a 2-0 win at Olympic Park. Signed by Adelaide City on the recommendation of Red Star coach Drago Sekularac who established a friendship with Adelaide City's coach Zoran Matic while he was in Australia coaching Footscray JUST. Was generally acknowledged as the best import of the 1989 season.

ALEX TOBIN



Born: 5th April, 1966
Club: Adelaide City
Previous Clubs: Birkalla
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1984
NSL Appearances: 158
NSL Goals: 1
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 14
Full International Appearances: 6
Goals for Socceroos: 2

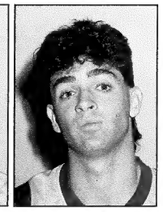
Played junior soccer with Birkalla and graduated into senior team after playing for South Australia's youth side. Signed for Adelaide City for a nominal fee by coach Edmund Kreft in 1984 when he was competing for a spot in the Young Socceroos side. Member of the Adelaide City side which won the NSL championship in '86. His brother Robbie is a player in the SA State League. Was pomoted into the Socceroos squad in 1988, playing five games and scoring a goal against Taiwan in the Olympic qualifiers in Adelaide. Originaly a left fullback, he has taken over a central defensive position partnering Milan Ivanovic at Adelaide City.

TONY VIDMAR

Born: 4th July, 1970
Club: Adelaide City
Previous Clubs: Adelaide City Juniors
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1989
NSL Appearances: 50
NSL Goals: 6

Younger brother of Aurélio promoted into the senior Socceroo squad for the first time after a successful stint with the Olympic Socceroos. Scored on his senior debut for Adelaide City after coming on as a substitute in the NSL Cup game against George Cross in April '89. Made his NSL League debut the following week at left fullback against St. George. Ended the season making 10 NSL appearances, three of them in the midfield. Scored his first NSL goal in the last game of the season against Blacktown. Collected an NSL Cup winner's medal vs Sydney Olympic in 1989. Now a fixture in the Adelaide City line-up at fullback.

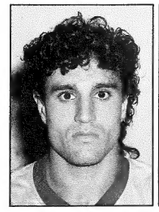
NED ZELIC



Born: 4th July, 1971
Club: Sydney Croatia
Previous Clubs: Canberra Croatia
Position: Defender
NSL Debut: 1989
NSL Appearances: 26

Representedf ACT at junior and youth level then served a two-year stint at the Institute of Sport. Signed by Sydney Croatia and had nine outings in the 1989 NSL mostly as sweeper, before returning to Canberra to complete his studies. Joined Canberra Croatia on loan and matured as a senior player to earn selection in the Olympic Socceroos, earning praise from national coach Eddie Thomson for his quality play as libero. Recalled by Sydney Croatia this season and has emerged among the best sweepers in the NSL. This is his first call up in the senior Socceroos.

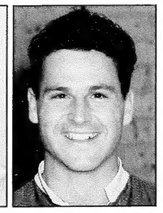
ANDREW BERNAL



Born: 16th May, 1966
Club: Sydney Olympic
Previous Clubs: Ipswich Town (UK), Australian Institute of Sport, Sydney City, Sporting Gijon (Spain), Jerez (Spain)
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: 1989
NSL Appearances: 56
NSL Goals: 2
Socceroos Appearances (all matches): 9
Full International Matches: 3

Captain of the Young Socceroos in the 1985 World Youth Championship qualifying campaign. Left for Spain before the WYC finals and managed seven Cup games for first division side Sporting Gijon and a further 43 league games while on loan to second division side Jerez. Moved to England for the '87-'88 season and played 16 second division games for Ipswich Town. Returned to Australia because of immigration problems (he entered England on a student's visa) and finally made his NSL debut at the start of 1989. Was included in the senior Socceroos squad for the series against Malmo and came on as a substitute in the first game in Melbourne. Won the NSL championship with Sydney Olympic in 1989–90.

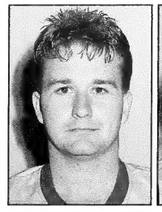
IAN GRAY



Born: 22nd July, 1963
Club: Marconi
Previous Clubs: Western Suburbs, Apia Leichhardt
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: September 1980
NSL Appearances: 237
NSL Goals: 36
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 21
Full International Appearances: 5
Goals for Socceroos: 2

Started out as a junior with Western Suburbs just before the club amalgamated with Apia in the late 70s. Graduated to the Apia NSL side in 1981 and gave the club five years' service before transferring to Marconi in a swap deal for Tom McCulloch worth $22,000. Picked for the Socceroos in 1984 and was a fixture in the squad for three seasons playing in 18 internationals including two in the '85 World Cup qualifying campaign. Member of Marconi's championship winning sides in 1988 and '89. Voted Marconi's players' player of the year in 1989.

DAVID LOWE



Born: 30th August, 1963
Club: Marconi
Previous Clubs: Newcastle KB United
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: March 1982
NSL Appearances: 237
NSL Goals: 69
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 2

Is among a select band of 14 players who have scored 60 or more in the NSL. Scored 16 goals in 16 games for the Young Socceroos in qualifiers and the finals of the World Youth Championship in Mexico in 1983. Started out in the NSL with Newcastle in 1982 scoring two goals on his debut and was the club's top scorer in 1982 and '83, then joined Marconi in a $15,000 transfer in 1984. Was a member of Marconi's two championship wins (1988 and 1989). Was in the senior Socceroo squad in 1986 and played against Canton.

BRANKO MILOSEVIC

Born: 21st August, 1968
Club: Melbourne Croatia
Previous Clubs: Olimpia Osijek (Croatia), Ulm (Germany)
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: 1987
NSL Appearances: 102
NSL Goals: 12
Socceroos Appearances (all matches): 1
Full International Appearances: 1

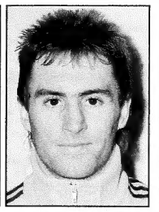
Started out in the juniors at Olimpia Osijek. Was with the club for 11 years playing in the Croatian second division. Moved to Germany to play for Ulm in the Bundesliga second division in 1985–86 scoring 10 goals as an attacking midfielder. Came to Melbourne Croatia in 1987 and was among the best newcomers of that NSL season. Voted the club's player of the year and the players' player of the year in '89. Excellent indoor soccer player. Made Socceroo debut in 1989.

MIKE PETERSON

Born: 6th May, 1965
Club: South Melbourne
Previous Clubs: Port Melbourne, Heidelberg, Brunswick Juventus, Ajax (Holland)
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: 1985
NSL Appearances: 156
NSL Goals: 13
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 31
Full International Appearances: 16
Goals for Socceroos: 2

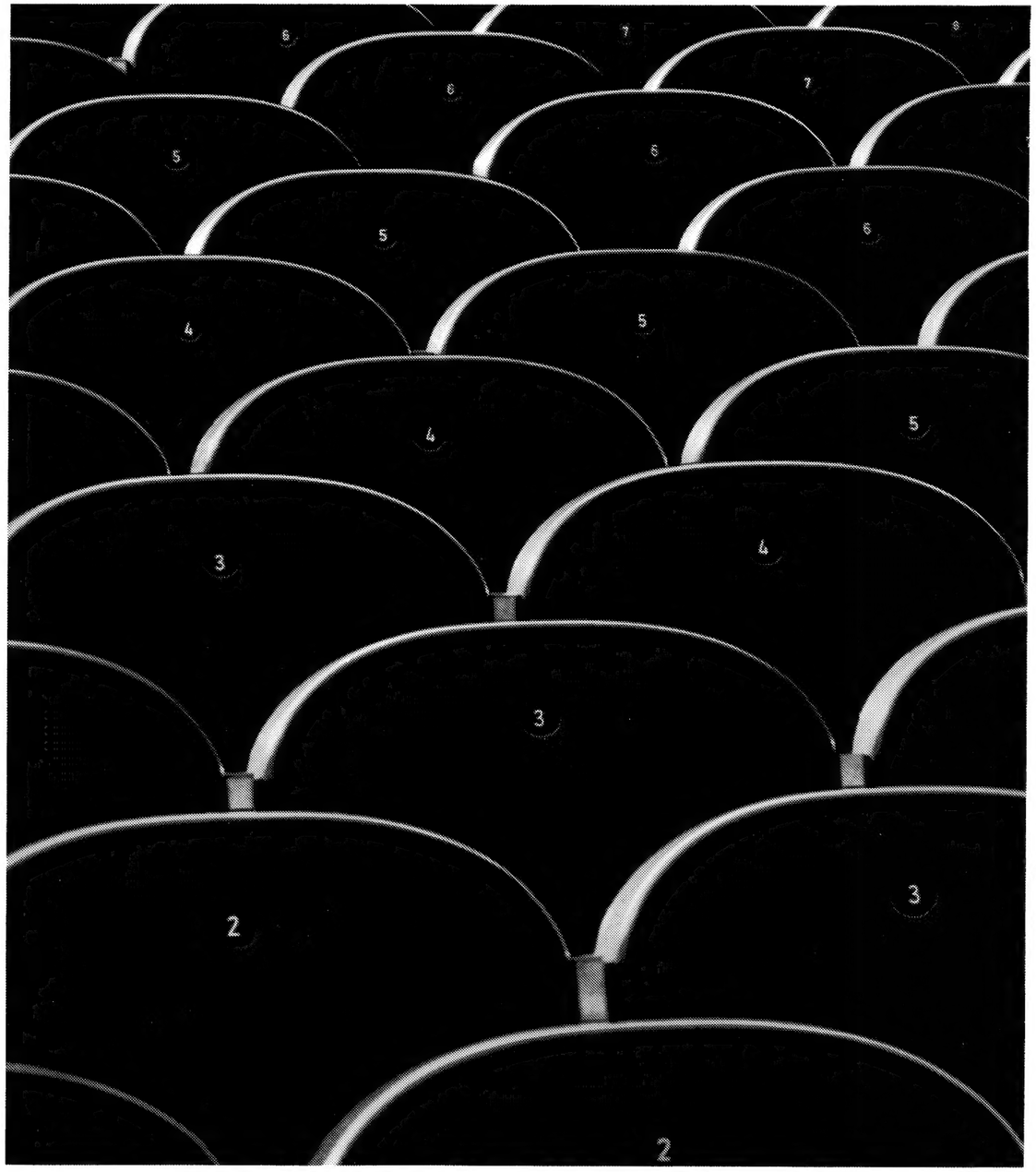
Played for Port Melbourne juniors before signing for Heidelberg in 1983 for two seasons. Transferred to Brunswick Juventus for $8,000 in 1985 and helped the club win the NSL title the same season. Moved to Ajax Amsterdam in '86 for $60,000 and spent one season with the Dutch giants before returning to Australia in 1988 to resume playing for Juve. Joined South Melbourne at the start of '89 season on a one year loan before signing permanently. At international level, scored on his debut for the Socceroos against Udinese in 1985 then claimed a regular midfield spot on his return from Holland. Has played 31 games for Australia to date. Scorer of one of the goals in the 4-1 win in the final against Sydney Olympic last season which brought the NSL Cup to the club for the first time.

PAUL WADE



Born: 20th March, 1962
Club: South Melbourne
Previous Clubs: Doveton, Dandenong City, Prahran Slavia, Croydon, Green Gully, Brunswick Juventus
Position: Midfielder
NSL Debut: 1984
NSL Appearances: 171
NSL Goals: 29
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 54
Full International Appearances: 36
Goals for Socceroos: 5

NSL Player of the Year in 1988, the Socceroos' midfield dynamo came to Australia as an 11 year old from England. Played for Doveton and Dandenong City as a junior before progressing to senior soccer with Prahran Slavia in the Victorian State League. Moved to Croydon in 1980 and was twice voted the club's player of the year. Stepped up to the NSL in '84 with a $3,000 move to Green Gully and was voted NSL Player of the Year by the Soccer Action newspaper. Transferring to Brunswick Juventus for $5,000 in 1985 he helped the club to the NSL title the same year. Joined South Melbourne in 1987 for $8,000. Picked for the Socceroos for the Czechoslovakia series in '86 and has been a regular since. Captained the Socceroos in the Merdeka Cup in Indonesia last year. NSL Cup winner's medal with South Melbourne in '89–90.



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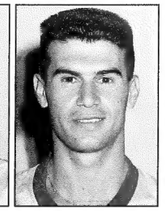
ALISTAIR EDWARDS

Born: 21st June, 1968
Club: Sydney Olympic
Previous Club: Glasgow Rangers (Scotland)
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1989
NSL Appearances: 39
NSL Goals: 6

Born in Whyalla, South Australia, but raised and learned his soccer in Western Australia before being selected for a two year stint at the Institute of Sport. Represented the Young Socceroos in the qualifiers and the 1987 World Youth Championship finals in Chile then left for Europe signing for Glasgow Rangers. Broke into the NSL with Sydney Olympic in 1989 on his return to Australia then had another stint in Britain before returning to Sydney Olympic at the tail-end of last season to help them win their first ever NSL title (scoring in the Grand Final win over Marconi). Spent the close season playing for Singapore's national team in the Malaysian national league and was one of the competition's top scorers. This is his first inclusion in the senior Socceroo team.

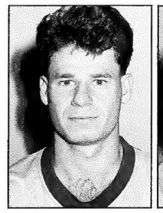
ABBAS SAAD



Born: 1st December, 1967
Club: Sydney Olympic
Previous Club: Sydney City
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1986
NSL Appearances: 100
NSL Goals: 29
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 1

Born in Lebanon, came to Australia as a 9 year old with his family. Played junior soccer with Olympic but broke into the NSL with Sydney City scoring on his debut. Selected for the Young Socceroos in the qualifiers and the World Youth Championship finals in Chile in 1987. Rejoined Sydney Olympic in 1987 after Sydney City folded. In '89 scored a hat-trick in the NSL Cup (vs St. George, won 6–3) and finished the season as the club's top scorer with eight goals. Member of the 1989–90 championship winning Sydney Olympic side. Made his Socceroo debut in 1989. Recently returned from a successful stint playing as a guest player for the Singapore national team in Malaysia's National League.

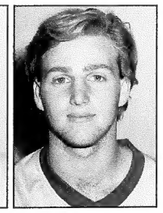
WARREN SPINK



Born: 4th October, 1966
Club: Preston
Previous Clubs: Doveton, Footscray JUST
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1986
NSL Appearances: 129
NSL Goals: 46
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 12
Full International Appearances: 7
Goals for Socceroos: 6

Broke into Doveton's Victorian State League side in 1982 as a 16 year old and won the Weinstein Medal as Victoria's best junior that year. Established himself as a deadly finisher in a two year stint at the Institute of Sport. Played for the Young Socceroos in the World Youth Championship finals in USSR in '85. Had a six month stint with Luton in England before returning to Australia and signing for Preston. Footscray snapped him up for the maximum $6,000 stipulated in his contract in '86. Operated behind the main front runners for two seasons until he led the attack in '88. His 13 NSL goals in '88 earned him a call-up in the Socceroos and he has since scored six goals in eight internationals. Preston re-signed him in December '88 for $20,000. Sidelined for most of the 1989–90 season by a fractured bone on the side of his right foot – an injury sustained in the opening game of the season.

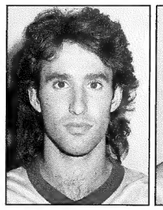
PAUL TRIMBOLI



Born: 25th February, 1969
Club: South Melbourne
Previous Clubs: Brighton, Australian Institute of Sport, Sunshine George Cross
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1987
NSL Appearances: 110
NSL Goals: 33
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 9
Full International Appearances: 4
Goals for Socceroos: 4

A product of the Brighton juniors who represented Victoria through the junior age groups. Had a stint at the A.I.S. where he established a lethal scoring partnership with Paul Foster. Graduated into the Young Socceroos playing in the qualifiers and the World Youth Championship finals in Chile in 1987. Broke into the NSL with Sunshine George Cross in '87 scoring 4 goals in 22 NSL appearances. Joined South Melbourne for the maximum $2,000 stipulated in his contract in 1988 and was voted the NSL Under 21 player scoring 8 goals in 28 NSL games for the club. Broke into the senior Socceroos in December '88 scoring against Fiji after coming on as substitute on his debut. Accountancy student. Voted Under 21 player of the year for the second successive season and also won the inaugural Goal of the Year award in 1989. Gained NSL Cup winner's medal in South's 4-1 final win over Sydney Olympic in 1989–90.

AURELIO VIDMAR



Born: 3rd February, 1967
Club: Adelaide City
Previous Club: Woodville
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1985
NSL Appearances: 143
NSL Goals: 29
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 3

Utility back playing as an attacking midfielder after filling in as central striker last season. In his sixth NSL season with Adelaide City, he was the youngest member of the club's NSL championship winning side in '86. Played junior soccer with amateur club Woodville then joined Adelaide City's second division team in 1984. Promoted to the NSL by coach Edmund Kreft the following year. Had a top season in '87 and was subsequently included in the Socceroos, playing two internationals in 1988. Spent part of the '89 pre-season training with an Italian second division club then returned for a second stint pre-season '90–91 spending time with Fiorentina and Reggina in Italy and Grasshoppers in Switzerland.

ANDREW ZINNI

Born: 6th March, 1965
Club: Preston
Previous Clubs: Port Melbourne, Brunswick
Position: Forward
NSL Debut: 1984
NSL Appearances: 163
NSL Goals: 46
Socceroo Appearances (all matches): 16
Full International Appearances: 8
Goals for Socceroos: 7

Played junior soccer with Melbourne and Hakoah and represented Victoria from U14s to U16s. Moved to Port Melbourne, a club in the Victorian State League which has produced several NSL players. Recruited by Brunswick in 1982 and established himself as a regular by the time the club earned promotion into the NSL in '84. Was a prominent member of Brunswick's 1985 NSL championship winning squad. Broke into the Socceroo squad in 1986 and scored two goals in nine internationals in '86 and '87. Lost his spot through injuries and indifferent form in '88. Had a close season groin operation then recovered to recapture his best form and was sought by Adelaide City before ending up signing with Preston for $17,000 in December '88. Recalled to the Socceroos for the 1989 tour of Indonesia for the Merdeka Cup.

Players' pen portraits courtesy of PETER DESIRA, Melbourne Herald Sun

The Whistle Blowers by DAVID COOPER

The Sydney leg of Czechoslovakia's two-match series against the Socceroos will see Australia's latest FIFA referee, John McConnell, make his debut in the International arena.

In only his fourth year on the NSL referees panel, John, to the surprise of few was included on the FIFA referees list. This now means Australia has seven FIFA badge-holders in all.

At 29, John is one of the youngest members on the NSL panel and has been refereeing for sixteen years. His consistency, fairness and knowledge of the game have seen him become one of the most respected referees amongst the players, coaches and club officials in Australia.

John works as a Finance Manager for Sydney firm Beckitt and Coleman and is married with two children.

The Melbourne leg of the tour will have one of Australia's most experienced referees handle his first full International "A" fixture.

Although only gaining his FIFA listing in 1990, Dennis Voutsinas has been a member of the NSL referees panel since 1980, making him one of the longest serving members on the panel.

Dennis has already covered two Australian fixtures against touring club sides Dinamo Zagreb (1989) and Torpedo Moscow (1990), giving him the necessary experience needed to handle a big international fixture.

Among the honours he has acquired over the years are the Flemming Award, Victorian Referee of the Year (1989) and the 1990 Dockerty Cup Final.

Dennis is a Technical Officer for Telecom Australia and is married with two children.

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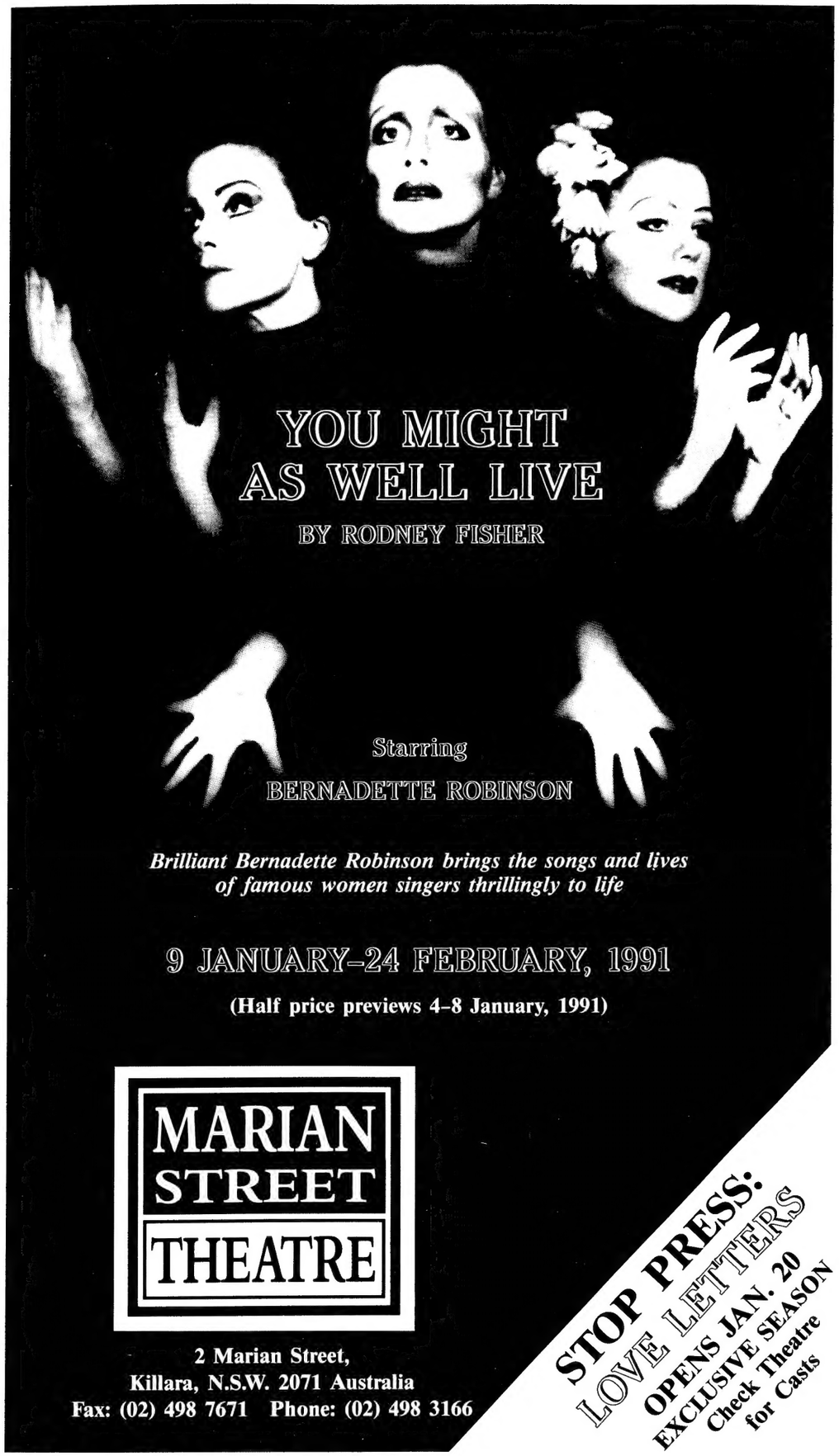
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